

First Negro YW Sec'y In West Indies

NEW YORK — (ANP) — Miss Carmen Lusan, one of 50 women from 26 countries attending the first "International Study Conference of Women and World Recreation" of the YWCA here, was recently named as the first colored woman general secretary of the National YWCA for Jamaica, in the British West Indies. In getting the appointment, Miss Lusan upsets a 25-year-old record of the organization of having white English secretaries in the post to administer to the needs of the native women.

A native of Kingston, Jamaica, Miss Lusan is one of the specialists chosen by the YWCA's of their respective countries for a year and a half study of association work in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. The courses are sponsored by the foreign division of the national YWCA board. The study group is currently in session at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Miss Lusan's itinerary has taken her to London, Ontario, and Ottawa, Canada, to visit Y camps. She received a special invitation from the commissioner of welfare Toronto, to visit the public welfare division. Other conferences took her to Sellsburg, Ind.; Chicago, Ill.; Grinnell College in Iowa; St. Louis; and Harlem YWCA to survey the trade school and other features at Emma Ranson House. Miss Lusan says the women are the most emancipated of all the females in the West Indies, though universal suffrage was extended in 1943. She pointed out, however, that women are still not receiving the same wages as men for commensurate work. She said domestic jobs pay better than industry, but women prefer to work in the factories and other industries because of the freedom and regularity of hours.

TRADE SCHOOL AIDS HARLEM STUDENTS

Courses in Y.W.C.A. Unit There

Prepare Men and Women
for Useful Careers

Harlem industrial training program of the Y. W. C. A., which reaches 500 persons of all ages and both sexes, has stimulated better race relations in the district, officials of the Harlem

Y. W. C. A. Trade School, 179 West 137th Street, declared yesterday.

The school has gone on "quietly" for nearly twenty years with graduates placed in many ranking city business offices, Mrs. MaBelle White Williams, branch secretary, said. The migration of Negroes to New York after World War I had proved the value of offering educational facilities "with an added personal touch to people cut loose from war work, who had drifted into Harlem," she explained.

Through the generosity of John D. Rockefeller Jr. and the parent Y. W. C. A. organization, she went on, the school which once was housed in two converted brownstone dwellings on West 132d Street in 1919, has grown to three modern buildings with an estimated value of \$1,250,000. There is no grave deficit to hinder further development in lower Washington Heights and perhaps in the neighboring South Bronx, she said.

Nearly half of the students of the Trade School are men, and most of these GIs. While some students are over 60, the majority are young, the men being under 35, she pointed out. The school operates from 8 A. M. to 10 P. M., and the classes are approved by the New York State Department of Education and the Veterans' Administration.

The Trade School stepped up the registration of men who wanted to learn dressmaking, designing and the beauty culture trades, Mrs. Mattie Julian Brown, trade school director, said. Three women and 191 men are enrolled for tailoring, and 138 women and fifteen men are enrolled for dress-making courses, she added.

Success as hairdressers by three former students who have opened establishments, prompted the school to acquire more modern equipment to teach that trade, Mrs. Brown said.

The Trade School takes pride in the graduates of the practical nursing courses, who have been trained with the aid of Beth-El Hospital, Brooklyn, and the City Department of Health. There is no unemployment among the graduates of the practical nurse training department, she added.

Most of the tailors have found work in the clothing industry as well as in small shops, with no reports of union friction, the school records revealed.

The trade school will open this session a field-training plan, which will provide on-the-job training for its senior students. A drive to raise \$10,000 for the Harlem Branch Y. W. C. A. will be opened this month by a committee headed by Mrs. W. Adrian Freeman, Mrs. Wenonah Bond Logan and Mrs. Cecelia Cabaniss Saunders, who was branch secretary until 1947.

General

Christian Students Hold Interracial Meet In Arkansas

Little Bluff, Ark. — Lillie Mae Paschal, senior at Arkansas State College from Hot Springs, and Raymond Cousan (white) of Henderson State Teachers College, have been elected state co-chairmen of the Student Christian Association. A sectional conference of the organization was recently held at the Phyllis Wheatley Y. W. C. A. in Little Rock with all Arkansas colleges and the University of Arkansas participating. The theme of the conference was "Our Social Responsibility As It Can Be Applied To Our Campus."

Those from Arkansas State taking part in the program were: the Rev. George A. Sewell, college minister, who headed a panel on "Political Action," with Willie Thompson, president of the Arkansas State student council, leading the discussion. Thompson is a senior from Little Rock. Dean John L. Wilson headed the panel on "Democratic Processes On the College Campus."

Ariel M. Lovelace, head of the music department at Arkansas State, directed community singing and recreation at the meeting. Also representing the college were Doretha Johnson, Little Rock; William Loudd, Norphlet; Caleb Johnson, James Fiedmont, Sherman Baker, all of St. Louis, Mo.; Louise Lofton, E. St. Louis, Ill.; Milton Mapp, Little; Lillian Hill of El Dorado; Rose McSpadden, Batesville; Sadie James, Little Rock; and Annette Harris, Briceyevs.

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Negro Woman Breaks Precedent At Newark Y

NEWARK — (ANP) — Bessie Atwell, a native of Montclair, N. J., is the first Negro to hold the post of health director at the Central YWCA.

Miss Atwell, who has been serving as an assistant on the staff, gave efficient service. Her high qualifications merited the promotion left vacant by Mrs. Sprague, white.

HARLEM YWCA CITED

NEW YORK (ANP) — The Harlem YWCA branch was cited in the Women's Press for unique contribution to the community and to America, last week. Under its interracial staff and board the

branch was indicated as unique not only in the United States, but in the whole world.

53 1948

Liberia

MRS. INEZ WILSON, former director of Wake Hall, of Washington, D. C., sailed on Friday for Monrovia, Liberia. She will be the first Negro woman to serve on the foreign division of the national board of the Y. W. C. A. Money for Mrs. Wilson's service in Monrovia was raised in a "Around the World Reconstruction Drive," participated in by women of all nations.

Baron, June 1948